



*photo by Michelle Markham*

## GOVERNMENT MEETS

GOVERNMENT: Rep. Tammy Baldwin meets WSG President Jason Wiendenhoeft during her visit to UW-Whitewater which, after redistricting, placed her in the university's district.

## Rep. Tammy Baldwin visits new part of district

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**By Anna Stanley**  
*Royal Purple staff writer*

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United States Representative Tammy Baldwin visited campus yesterday for the first time as Whitewater's Congressional representative in the hope of becoming more informed on what to work on for the area.

"I wanted to come back as soon as possible after being elected in such a key and vibrant part of the new district," Baldwin said.

Baldwin said she enjoys the feeling of expansion at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater atmosphere.

"It's definitely a campus that's physically growing. You can definitely feel the momentum here," Baldwin said. "It also does the best job of meaning what it says about being diverse."

Baldwin was first elected to Congress in 1998, the first female representative elected from Wisconsin. She was re-elected in 2000 and again in November.

Due to redistricting, which caused Wisconsin to lose one seat in the House of Representatives, Whitewater was included Baldwin's district. She says she was excited about the district, especially getting another campus.

"The reception I received here was

warm and inviting,” Baldwin said.

In last November’s election, Baldwin beat opponent Ron Greer by a margin of more than 77,000. Her success is said to be due in part to her appeal to college-age voters.

Baldwin’s Web site, [www.tammybaldwin.house.gov](http://www.tammybaldwin.house.gov), says, “Baldwin’s Congressional campaigns have been lauded for their high voter turnout, especially among young adults and college students on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus.”

“I prioritize the issues that weigh heavily on the minds of young people,” Baldwin said, including higher education, the job market, environment, and foreign policy.

Baldwin’s started her political career in 1986 as a first year law student at the University of Wisconsin Law School at the age of 23. Campaigning for the district that primarily covered the campus, Baldwin won a seat as a member of Dane County’s Board of Supervisors.

“I was campaigning in fraternities, sororities, dormitories and security-locked apartment buildings,” Baldwin said. As her potential pool of voters grew with each new position for which she ran, Baldwin says she maintained her focus on younger voters.

Baldwin says she sympathizes with the UW-system budget cuts, having previously served in state legislature.

“They have some horrid choices that they have to make,” Baldwin said.

For her part, Baldwin said she has worked to ensure Wisconsin schools get as much federal money as possible. This is aided by the quality of the UW-system, as much of it is competitively received in grants.

“We just do better than other schools,” Baldwin said. She also co-sponsored a bill that would

double the Pell Grant, from \$3,500 to \$7,000 within three years and increase the number available.

“It hasn’t kept up with inflation or tuition,” Baldwin said.

The increase in federal loans has also hurt college students, Baldwin said.

“Your job options are far different if you’re emerging with \$20,000 to \$30,000, compared with \$5,000,” Baldwin said. The increase in debt could prevent graduates from pursuing service-oriented jobs.

Baldwin was scheduled to meet with Jefferson County officials later in the day, where she will see what future projects they may be considering.

“After I get to hear that it’s my job to say, ‘Is there some way the federal government can help?’” Baldwin said. Transportation and medical projects are some examples of what could receive federal aid.

“I try to help area government and private organizations, both non-profit and profit, know about all the resources in the federal government,” Baldwin said.